

## DREADNOUGHTS OF THE VISITING FLEET COMING UP THE BAY YESTERDAY.

SILENT CROWDS  
APPRAISE GRIM  
FLEET IN RIVER

Awed by Sea Horror, They  
Speculate on Readiness  
of Ships for War.

CITY OFFICIALLY  
WELCOMES FIGHTERS

Admiral Fletcher Invokes Inter-  
est of Citizens in Navy as  
Nation's Defence.

The Atlantic fleet came in with silence. In harmony with a cloudy sky, the shadow of the Lusitania disaster made sixteen battleship hulks seem more dull-gray than ever as super-dreadnoughts, dreadnoughts and lesser craft steamed to their respective mooring stations in the North River yesterday morning.

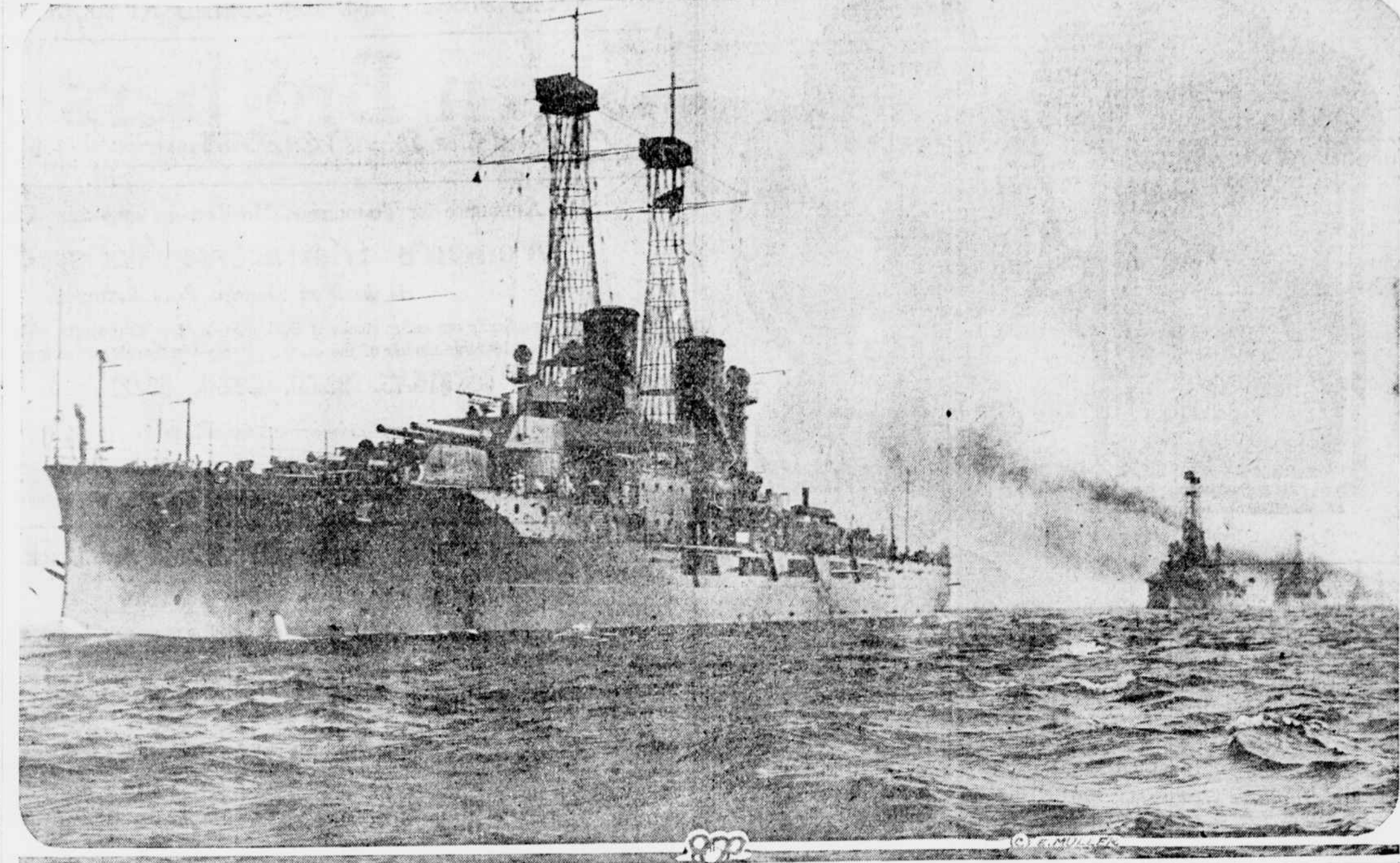
Guns on Governor's Island were silent, ferry and tugboat sirens gave forth no blasts of welcome and five thousand persons crowded around the Battery confined their emotions to stolid staring. As the war craft, headed by the Louisiana, Rear Admiral Walter H. C. Smith, commanding the fourth division, passed on up the river, the silence became intensified. Little groups of children along Riverside Drive waving flags added a slight quiver of color to the spectacle which greeted twenty thousand sailors and five thousand civilians who had gathered to see the fleet.

It was a strange welcome, tinged with awe inspired from the coincidence that a great maritime catastrophe had occurred as the fleet neared New York waters.

## City Welcomes Fleet.

Officially, however, New York City's welcome to the fleet was as exuberant and cordial as the sunshine which beat down on the battleships soon after they had dropped anchor. Acting Mayor George McAneny, Theodore Roosevelt, secretary to Mayor Mitchell, and Dock Commissioner R. A. C. Smith arrived at Eighty-third Street on a large tug from the Department of Docks and Ferries ten minutes before the flagship Wyoming swung slowly to her station. Rear Admiral Usher, commander of the New York Navy Yard, received a salute as he drew alongside the flagship in his launch, the Spray.

After him came the City Hall delegation. As they ascended the gangplank



loss of life? It's the same principle at bottom.

"And furthermore, how would it harm the German cause by engaging in war? It seems to me that by keeping our ammunition and war supplies for ourselves we would be crippling the Allies. Every bit of ammunition that we can turn out over here is being sent to the Allies. I don't see how we would be bothering Germany by declaring war on her."

A moment of silence, a twinkle of the eye, and then the reply, "Well, you have another cigarette?"

Is the Fleet Ready?

"If trouble should come is this fleet equipped ready to go to sea for fighting?" was a question put up to each of three officers. They all shook their heads and smiled.

"We look like an efficient fleet as we lie here in the river," said one. "We look pretty fine, but I don't think we would stand up two hours in contest against a modern European fleet. Perhaps it's heresy to say so, but believe me, that's the way I feel about it. Does anybody in possession of all his senses believe for one minute that we are ready for a war? Why, we don't know in the United States what means to go to war! Some day our country will wake up."

Opinion among officers seemed to be that the submarine flotilla, which lies at 155th Street, is the best equipped unit in the navy for immediate service. "But we can't hold a candle to the Germans in submarine construction," said another unqualified naval man. "I understand they are building and showing into the water two of those big U type boats every week. The men who build Germany's submarines have nothing else to think about. Each boat is personally supervised by an engineer and expert. With us submarine construction is incidental to other naval matters. The only way for us to develop our submarines and aeroplanes is to adopt the German system of concentration."

Sailors Cuss Submarines.

"Nine of the eighteen submarines in service on this coast are right here with the fleet. Two more are on their way from Charleston, S. C. We have eight building and requisitions for eight more have passed Congress. But we are reverting to type. Turning against the wheel of progress, we are going back to a small obsolescent type. All naval experts are agreed that for coast defence a large 800-ton submarine is best. The German U boats are twice as large as those U boats of ours, which have just come up from Pensacola."

One of the seamen who made that 1,200 mile trip was overheard telling friends in the pier that if a complete log of the run were perused it would show a continuing sequence of breakdowns and emergency repairs. "That's the way with those cursed critters," he said, looking at the lanky steel submarines. "It's work every minute while they're running, and then some more when they stop."

When the possibility of war with Germany was put up squarely to several officers they hesitated before making reply. It certainly was a serious situation, they admitted; one could not tell what would happen.

"How does the fleet take this suggestion of even a possibility of war?"

"Let me ask you something," demanded an officer, wheeling around sharply as he paced the deck. "Do the people of this country want war? If they want war we'll get it. Public opinion will decide this question, not the government at Washington."

"I see no reason why we should rush into war," said an officer who stands well up in the service. "Suppose 150 Americans had been killed when the Germans tore through Belgium. Would we have gone to war over that?"

NO DANGER, CAPTAIN SAID

Niece Tells Turner's Last Words Before Sailing.

"Captain Turner was so certain of his ability to take the Lusitania safely across the Atlantic that it never occurred to him to ask for a convoy of British warships to accompany his ship along the Irish coast."

This is what Captain Turner's niece, Miss Mercedes Desmore, had to say yesterday about the optimism of her uncle when he took the Lusitania out of New York a week ago Saturday. Just before the liner sailed he told her that there was no ground for worry, as the speed of the Lusitania would make it impossible for German submarines to cause it damage. Miss Desmore, who is playing in Margaret Illington's company in "The Lie" at the Harris Theatre, is the only relative of Captain Turner in America.

The day before the Lusitania sailed Captain Turner had a picture taken of himself and Miss Desmore. This is the only picture of the captain taken on this side of the Atlantic.

Navy Unready for War  
Officers Admit in Sorrow

Vessels in Hudson Look Fine, but Could Not Stand  
Two-Hour Battle Against Modern Fleet, Is Frank  
Confession of Men Who Would Do the Fighting.

Latest reports from the Lusitania disaster and possibilities of serious trouble between the United States and Germany would not have been mentioned on the Atlantic fleet yesterday if officers had followed strictly the dictates of President Wilson's neutrality proclamation. But interest in the news from London and Washington transcended ordinary precautions.

When convened in their cabins officers would talk freely about the psychological reaction of Admiral Fletcher's fleet to the latest achievement of German submarines. Invariably the interview with a Tribune representative was closed with the earnest request: "Now, please don't use my name. You know that Secretary Daniels has threatened to court martial naval officers who say anything to the newspapers about his policy."

Naval officers appeared to agree that the Lusitania might have been better protected by the British government. They also agreed that in the event of complications with Germany, the fleet which now floats so imposingly in the Hudson would be found wanting in many important essentials. Their honest opinion may be summed up in the comment of one officer: "The United States does not know what it means to go to war."

Laid for Lusitania.

"Were you surprised at the torpedoing of the Lusitania?" a group of three officers was asked.

"I'm not surprised at anything the Germans do," replied one. He qualified this remark with the afterthought that some of the pro-German officers in the fleet would be displeased at his sentiments.

"One thing is plain to me," chimed in another officer. "The Germans certainly laid for that one ship. They probably had several submarines watching for her. With their wonderful spy system they know everything that we know over here about the ship. It looks to me as though they had her course all mapped out."

"Could England have protected the Cunard liner with a guard of modern gun or torpedo destroyers?" was the next question.

One of the officers recollected that several cruisers rallied to the defense of the Lion of the British navy earlier in the war. "A good cruiser ought to have been able to smash the periscope on that German submarine as soon as it appeared above the water," he added. "I don't mean it's an easy stunt to hit a moving periscope, but it could be done. Everything's possible in the navy, you know."

"Have cruisers in the United States been abolished in an effort to discover enough men for active service without the former period of training."

Destroyers Short of Men.

"There is also a shortage of men on the destroyers. Their captains were asked by the department to submit figures for the lowest number of men they could keep in command. It was understood that these estimates implied that the destroyers were to remain in port."

"After the figures had been furnished the deck force of the destroyers was reduced from forty-three to twenty-nine, so that to-day there are actually not enough to man a gun on any destroyer in the Atlantic fleet."

It is also significant that there is a lack of torpedoes, and each destroyer has been allotted only one. The men are working watch and watch, which means four hours on duty and the same time off, for the engine and deck forces. Under this system a man is in no condition to work well after he has tried to snatch a four-hour nap, and is often sleepy and partially dazed.

"A naval officer has explained that in the event of trouble between the United States and another nation it would be the paramount duty of the President to summon as soon as possible a special session of Congress to man the ships, which at present are unable to go into an engagement because of the lack of officers and men."

From the point of view of equipment and ammunition the vessels now at New York are much better situated than they are in the number of enlisted men, and are efficient from those angles.

Gray Fleet Undermanned,  
Inefficient, Says Expert

Ships, from Super-Dreadnoughts to Destroyers, Would Be  
Crippled in Action, or Even Peace Manoeuvres,  
by Lack of Men if War Came.

The Atlantic fleet, a gray—and to the engineers' Texas, a—impressive gathering of superdreadnoughts, dreadnoughts, battle cruisers and other craft, is now in the Hudson. Ordinarily the crowds along Riverside Drive would have regarded these vessels merely as a spectacle. But with the news of the sinking of the Lusitania there has come upon the people a new angle of vision. New York to-day is asking not what kind of a showing these ships can make in a celebration, but what they could do in active duty.

A naval expert visited the fleet yesterday at the request of The Tribune. "Every one of the battleships in the Hudson is undermanned, and it would take three months to bring them to a maximum efficiency," was his conclusion.

"Each of the vessels in the first division is short about 200 men. This group is composed of the superdreadnought class, includes the commander in chief's flagship Wyoming and the Florida, the Arkansas and the North Dakota.

"With their present complement the four ships could not be manned well, and both Admiral Badger and Admiral Fletcher, the present commander, admit that there is a serious shortage of enlisted men. This lack is considered far more alarming than an insufficient number of dreadnoughts.

Need 4,600 More Men.

"To make these ships efficient would take at least three months, for in a shorter period raw recruits cannot be brought together and taught how to drill and operate guns."

He explained that the Bureau of Navigation made an allowance of enlisted men for each ship, but that at present this number was nowhere nearly complete. And this is in spite of the shortage of the navy, which the statement made by Rear Admiral Blue, chief of the bureau, who told the House Naval Committee that the navy was suffering from a shortage of officers and men. He also pointed out last December that 4,600 men and 200 officers more were necessary to fully man the vessels of military value which could be used in time of war.

"Subsequently, under the pressure of public opinion, 4,500 men were asked for, but the Naval Committee had already received its instructions and refused to grant the request. The Naval General Board had recommended an addition to the enlisted forces of 18,000 men, and Admiral Fiske in his testimony backed up this estimate."

The naval expert then went into the results of his investigation, and told of the conditions existing on two of

the ships, which he said were typical of the others.

"On the Texas," he continued, "the newest of the dreadnoughts, the Bureau of Navigation allows eighty-four men as a war strength for each of the forward 14-inch gun turrets. A peace strength of seventy-three men is regarded as sufficient. But the latter figure was cut by the present administration to sixty-four, and when the Texas went to target practice there were actually only fifty-three men in the turret."

Practice Work Hampered.

"This necessitated calling upon the engineers' Texas, a—impressive gathering of superdreadnoughts, dreadnoughts, battle cruisers and other craft, is now in the Hudson. Ordinarily the crowds along Riverside Drive would have regarded these vessels merely as a spectacle. But with the news of the sinking of the Lusitania there has come upon the people a new angle of vision. New York to-day is asking not what kind of a showing these ships can make in a celebration, but what they could do in active duty."

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| <b>Women's White Canvas Pumps, \$1.65</b><br>White canvas instep strap; pump style with ribbon bow, turn soles, covered Cuban heels.   | <b>Girls' White Nu Buck Shoes, \$1.98</b><br>White Nu Buck, button style, welted and stitched soles, full round toe last; sizes 1 1/2 to 2.                                   | <b>Women's Pumps, \$2.95</b><br>Patent leather low cut effect with fawn cloth and black brocade backs; also all patent leather, turn soles, Louis heels.                   |
| <b>Women's Low Shoes, \$1.98</b><br>Lines from our regular stock that we have decided to discontinue. The variety is large, but the size range in some of the styles is broken, but most all sizes in the lot. | <b>Boys' Sturdy Shoes, \$1.98</b><br>Made to stand hard knocks, solid sole leather, strong stitching, firm uppers; sizes 1 to 5 1/2. Smaller sizes, \$1.79.                   | <b>Women's White Nu Buck Pumps, \$2.95</b><br>White Nu Buck Pump model with small ornament at vamp, welted and stitched soles, Cuban heels.                                |
| <b>Women's Ankle Strap Pumps, \$1.98</b><br>Patent leather ankle strap pump model, with ribbon bow, welted and stitched soles, Cuban heels.  | <b>Men's Low Shoes, \$1.98</b><br>Discontinued lines from our regular stock. The variety is large, but the size range is broken, but all sizes in the lot.                    | <b>Women's Rubber Sole Oxfords, \$2.95</b><br>Tan Russia and White Nu Buck, rubber sole, welted and stitched, with rubber heels.   |
| <b>Women's Tan Kid Oxfords, \$1.98</b><br>Soft tan kid oxford model, medium round toe, welted and stitched soles, military heel.   | <b>Men's Rubber Sole Oxfords, \$2.95</b><br>Mahogany shade of tan Russia, with rubber soles, welted and stitched, invisible eyelets, with rubber heels.                       | <b>Women's Rubber Sole High Shoes, \$3.50</b><br>White Nu Buck and tan Russia high lace shoes, with welted and stitched rubber soles, with heels.                          |
| <b>Women's Two-Button Combination Low Shoes, \$3.95</b><br>Patent leather and gun metal two-button style with gray and fawn buck backs, turn soles, Louis heels.   | <b>Women's High Grade Low Shoes, \$3.95</b><br>Imported patent leather with fawn and gray cloth sides, welted soles; also all patent leather hand turn; all have Louis heels. | <b>Women's Combination Pumps, \$3.50</b><br>Patent leather and gun metal with gray and fawn cloth backs, welted and stitched soles, leather Louis heels with rubber heels. |

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